

DATE/TIME: March 20, 2012; 9-11:00 a.m. (EDT)

FILE CODE: 20074350

LOCATION: Clay Township Hall

SUBJECT: US 31 Hamilton County 2012 updates

Attendees: Christine Altman, Hank Arzman, Brad Davis, Mike Dearing, Ron Farrand, Dennis Faulkenberg, Monica Faurote, Becky Jacobson, Dan LaReau, Mike McBride, Jennifer Miller, Brenda Myers, Bob Robey, Kurt Wanninger

US 31 Team Members: Kathy Davis, Larry Heil, Andrea Hermer, Jill Hoffman, Cris Klika, Dawn Kroh, Duane McKinney, Harry Maginity, Gary Pence, Whitney Pflanzner, Jason Rowley, Seth Schickel, Tammy Schroeder, Lisa Tellus, Abby Weingardt and Will Wingfield.

Notes by: Whitney Pflanzner

PURPOSE: To provide project updates regarding the accelerated schedule, construction and land acquisition, discuss P3 concepts (project funding) and project updates – including design, lettings, utilities coordination, closures/restrictions and maintenance of traffic. The team also shared updates on CSS and ended with a Q&A session.

DISCUSSION: Led by Gary Pence, Jason Rowley, Cris Klika, Duane McKinney and Lisa Tellus.

Lisa Tellus opened the meeting at 9:11 a.m. and gave an overview of the agenda. Lisa explained the purpose of the meeting, which was to provide updates in the areas of public involvement, design, funding, construction and CSS.

PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS:

Lisa Tellus gave an overview of ongoing public outreach efforts and mentioned that “Follow Our Progress” cards were available with information about the new text messaging program and how to subscribe to the e-newsletter. She also said that updated fact sheets were available and will be distributed at the open house on March 29. She explained that e-newsletters have been distributed regularly, with the latest including information about SR 38 and 146th Street/Keystone Parkway construction and the schedule acceleration announcement. She mentioned that public presentations are available upon request, and that the “Construction/Closures” tab on the website contains the most up-to-date construction information. Lisa reminded the group that an open house was planned for March 29, at Carmel High School.

INDOT UPDATES:

Gary Pence then began with INDOT updates and the original construction sequencing schedule was displayed. Then, the revised construction schedule was displayed, which showed that all construction will be complete by the end of 2015. Gary discussed the accelerated planning considerations and impacts.

Because of the accelerated schedule, the team must complete all corridor design plans by July and large amounts of right of way need to be purchased. There are parcels that are partial takes and ones which have easements. The team has a lawyer to help with all of the right of way needs. Gary encouraged CAC members to contact him or the other team members if construction or right of way issues arise. He mentioned that the team encountered an issue on March 19 with Circle Drive construction. The contractor had blocked access to Circle Drive and Carmel Clay School bus drivers had to pick up and drop off students on US 31. Gary explained that the team worked with Carmel Clay Schools to address the issues and prevent them from happening in the future.

Then, Gary discussed future construction sequencing, in which the team is looking into closing US 31 from just south of 126th Street to just north of 136th Street. The acceleration of the project will save significant taxpayer dollars. It also means that geotech, right of way and utilities work must move quickly. Maintenance of traffic plans must encompass the plans of a closure on US 31. Gary explained the general construction sequencing plans for 2013 – 2015. In 2013, SR 32 and 191st Street offline and shoulder work will occur. Offline work is preparatory work done with minimal impact to the interchange. Full construction of 151st Street to 161st Street also will occur in 2013, along with minimal work on US 31 from I-465 to 136th Street. In 2014, full construction will occur on US 31 at the SR 32 and 191st Street interchanges and along the corridor from 151st to 161st streets. Offline work and shoulder impacts from I-465 to 136th Street also will happen in 2014. In 2015, SR 32 and 191st Street work will be complete and the southernmost portion of the project-- I-465 to 136th Street-- will be under full construction with the entire project is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

US 31 PROJECT FINANCING

Cris Klika discussed how the accelerated project will be funded. She explained that there are a number of sources for transportation funding – which includes federal and state gas taxes, Major Moves dollars, Bond Issues and Public Private Partnerships (P3). The US 31 project team is will utilize P3 funding for the construction acceleration. P3 is a tool that INDOT can utilize to fund large projects, and some forms of this include Build Finance Operate (BFO) and Build Finance Operate and Maintain (BFOM), which are agreements INDOT can enter into with a contractor. For the US 31 Hamilton County project, INDOT is using Contractor Financing, which is a partnership with a financing institution that allows INDOT to pay off the project over the span of seven to 10 years – as opposed to paying the contractor up front. By using this method, INDOT will ask contractors to build interest rates into their bids and they will prequalify contractors to ensure competence. Contractor Financing allows INDOT to even out payments to allow for optimum highway program delivery, and it will accelerate construction and beat inflation.

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Jason Rowley discussed design/ construction updates for the following: SR 38, the 146th Street bridge and 146th Street Interchange, Keystone Parkway/146th Street Interchange, Range Line Road, 106th Street, SR 32 and the interchanges between 169th and 191st streets. New southbound lanes at the SR 38 interchange are being constructed and traffic switched to the northbound lanes of US 31 on March 15 from one mile south and one mile north of SR 38. Construction on the 146th Street bridge is expected to be complete this May, and contractors are now working on the 146th Street Bridge Trail - which will be complete by the time the Hagan-Burke Trail closes. Jason showed “before” and “after” graphics of the 146th Street overpass. He explained that the Keystone Parkway/146th Street Interchange project let in September 2011

and clearing and utilities relocation began in the fall of 2011. The majority of construction on this interchange will occur during the spring and summer of 2012. Southbound Keystone Parkway will be closed on or after April 9, 2012, and the closure will last approximately 90 days. Northbound Keystone Parkway will close for approximately 80 days on or after July 5, 2012.

Jason discussed upcoming construction on Range Line Road for the spring and summer 2012. All US 31 traffic near Range Line Road will be shifted to the northbound US 31 lanes. A temporary signal will be installed at US 31 and Range Line Road/ Clay Terrace Blvd. to help improve the flow of traffic in the area. Beginning in the summer and fall of 2012, motorists will access Range Line Road/Clay Terrace Blvd. via 146th Street – and not from US 31. Motorists traveling from northbound US 31 to Range Line Road/Clay Terrace Blvd., will use Greyhound Pass from July to November 2012. Jason mentioned that the project website (www.us31hamiltoncounty.in.gov) depicts various navigation routes for this area.

Jason explained that several additional support contracts were scheduled to let in 2012, which include the demolition of 52 buildings in the spring/summer of 2012 and building an access road from Buena Vista Blvd. to Far Hills Drive this summer. Contractors will also be mitigating impacted wetlands and moving them to Madison County.

Next, Jason went through construction information at specific areas along the corridor:

- Offline construction on the 106th Street interchange is expected to occur in 2014 and the interchange will be completed in 2015. As part of this construction, the roundabout on Pennsylvania Street will be widened to two lanes.
- The SR 32 interchange will be designed as a Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI) and US 31 will go over SR 32. A roundabout will be constructed at Poplar Street and SR 32. Poplar Street will be the new access point to businesses in the small area to the south of the SR 32 for those who will lose access to US 31.
- A connector road between Wheeler Road and Sun Park Drive will be constructed, and a signal will be installed.
- Carmel plans to construct a roundabout at Illinois Street and 106th Street in 2013, with a connection to Spring Mill Road.
- Jason showed illustrations of the City of Westfield and the City of Carmel's plans for local road improvements around the US 31 corridor.
- He also displayed three land acquisition graphics, which illustrated the progress of various parcels.

MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC

Duane McKinney went through the revised construction schedule and maintenance of traffic plans. He explained that in 2012, the SR 38 interchange and 146th Street/Keystone Parkway ramps would be constructed, along with a demolition contract and local route improvements. In 2013, the planned contracts include East Street, Paddack Road, SR 32 (offline work), 161st Street, 151st Street/Greyhound Pass, I-465 (offline work) and local route improvements. In the 2014 construction season, work on 191st Street, 181st Street, SR 32, 169th Street, 136th Street (offline work), 131st Street (offline work), 116th Street (offline work), 106th Street (offline work) and I-465 (offline work) will occur. And in 2015, the entire US 31 Hamilton County project will wrap up with construction with the following streets: 136th, 131st, 126th, 116th, 111th and 106th, along with I-465 interchange completion. The original construction schedule called

for construction through 2018, which means the entire project will be completed about years ahead of schedule, if a full closure is decided upon.

Several factors will come into play as the construction sequencing schedule is accelerated. The interchange project at 96th Street and Keystone Avenue – slated to occur in 2013 – would call for the potential full closure of Keystone Avenue and motorists would need to use US 31 as a through detour. Keystone Avenue will be used as a through detour during US 31 work between I-465 and the Monon Trail. The 151st Street/Greyhound Pass and 161st Street segments will be constructed in 2013 to tie into the 146th Street interchange work – scheduled to be complete by the end of 2012. Construction on US 31 from I-465 to the Monon Trail will be completed in the same construction season in order to complete mainline construction using Keystone Avenue as a detour for through traffic.

Duane also covered the maintenance of traffic phasing plan for 2013. During construction on 151st Street/Greyhound Pass and the 161st Street interchanges, as well as mainline US 31, two lanes in each direction will be maintained on US 31. During construction, 161st Street interchange will be closed and a signal at 169th Street will be used to help with overflow traffic. Greyhound Pass will remain open until construction on the 151st Street interchange is complete. Duane showed illustrations of these maintenance of traffic phasing plans, as well as an illustration of the maintenance of traffic phasing plan for SR 32 offline work.

Next, he displayed illustrations of maintenance of traffic phasing plans for the following for the corridor. A combination of split phase traffic, crossover traffic and a full closure is being considered. The full closure, proposed to occur in 2015, would be from Old Meridian Street to 136th Street. Split phase traffic will run from I-465 to Old Meridian Street with two lanes in each direction from I-465 to 116th Street, utilizing exit/entrance ramps at 106th and 116th streets. There will be one lane of traffic in each direction from 116th Street to Old Meridian Street.

He also showed maintenance of traffic phasing plans for the full closure of US 31 between Old Meridian Street and 136th Street. During the full closure, Keystone Avenue would be the official signed detour and Illinois, Pennsylvania and Old Meridian streets would be local detours. For the full closure, there would be no restrictions on Keystone Avenue (pending the completion of the 96th Street/Keystone Avenue interchange) and the southbound US 31/southbound Keystone Parkway ramp will be temporarily converted to two lanes. Access to 136th Street from the north will be open at all times to cross traffic (two lanes in each direction). Motorists will also have access to Old Meridian street from the south at all times. Either 126th Street or 131st Street will be open to cross traffic at all times. A median will be opened temporarily at Old Meridian Street during the closure to relieve congestion at the Old Meridian/Pennsylvania roundabout.

CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS (CSS):

Dawn Kroh provided Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) updates. She displayed images of the MSE wall form liners for the project. She also displayed an illustration of a hardscape and a table of the structure colors for the various CSS elements.

Dawn explained the various forms of landscape options and included a map of US 31 in Hamilton County where some of these landscape options would be integrated. Also, she explained that a multi-use path

along the north side of 146th Street would be constructed, and this project would be funded by Hamilton County. Monon Trail construction in Westfield will be completed by INDOT, but funded by the City of Westfield.

CLOSING:

Gary Pence closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and reminding them about the public open house on March 29, at Carmel High School in the Freshman Cafeteria. The open house will run from 5 – 8 p.m. and a formal presentation will begin at 6 p.m. Attendees will need to park in the Freshman Center parking lot and enter through door 13. One CAC member asked if INDOT was coordinating with utilities to get them ready for the project's acceleration. Gary said that the project team has been pushing utility companies since last summer, when the idea for a full closure was on the table. Gary said that this was a major undertaking and that right of way is moving along quicker. He said that the project team was looking to have all the offers out by the end of this year. He mentioned that utility coordination is the next big task at hand for the team.

The meeting ended at 11:00 a.m.